Serial No. 09/915,570

Amendment Dated: January 23, 2004

Reply to Non-Compliance Dated: December 23, 2003

**REMARKS** 

The above Amendment and the enclosed revised copy in triplicate of the

Appeal Brief are presented in accordance with the Office notification of

December 23, 2003 and a telephone communication between Applicants attorney

and the Examiner on January 22, 2004.

Claim 51 has been amended to depend from claim 31 so that it is in

compliance with the Appendix of the Appeal Brief.

Additionally, the Appeal Brief has been revised to discuss the reasons for

separate patentability in support of the statement of the "Grouping of Claims" on

page 4. These revisions include arguments as to why the various claims are

separately patentable over the prior art because the features are not shown by

the prior art. This procedure was adapted in accordance with the best understood

requirement of the Examiner, as stated in the telephone conversation of January

22, 2004.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in

general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this

should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Page 11 of 12

Serial No. 09/915,570 Amendment Dated: January 23, 2004 Reply to Non-Compliance Dated: December 23, 2003

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037076.43755CO).

Respectfully submitted,

January 23, 2004

Vincent J. Sunderdick Registration No. 29,004

CROWELL & MORING LLP Intellectual Property Group P.O. Box 14300 Washington, DC 20044-4300 Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500

Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

VJS:adb

Document#300672